



Sunburst



Vol. 46 No. 12

Serving the Holloman Air Force Base community

Friday, March 28, 2003

Inside

Red Cross month



Pages 10-11

This week's mission feature takes a closer look at Holloman's Red Cross volunteers.

Briefly

'Integrity First' at the gym

Holloman's Fitness and Sports Center starts issuing equipment cards Tuesday to account for equipment including towels and sports equipment. The towel supply has decreased significantly during the one year of operation.

For more information, contact Dave LaBonte, gym director, at 572-2392.

Lunch for a buck

Enlisted Club members can eat lunch for \$1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., today at the Enlisted Club. Officers' Club members can get the same deal Monday at the Officers' Club.

For more information or to become a member contact the Enlisted Club at 572-3226 or the Officers' Club at 572-3611.

Change of Command

The 49th Operations Group change of command ceremony is 10 a.m., April 7 at Hangar 301. Col. Andrew Papp will assume command and Col. Rich Treadway will be reassigned as the 49th Fighter Wing vice commander.

F-117s use new bombs in Baghdad

U.S. Air Force F-117s struck five strategic targets in Baghdad March 21 using a new precision-guided munition, the EGBU-27, as coalition forces shifted the Operation Iraqi Freedom air campaign into high gear.

Using the low-observable, stealth technology of the F-117 to penetrate deep into Iraq and the improved bombs, the strike missions were able to precisely hit communication nodes and command bunkers in Baghdad late March 21, said Maj. Clint Hinote, an F-117 pilot assigned to the Combined Air Operations Center at a forward-deployed base in Southwest Asia.

"The F-117 has been given some very tough assignments in this war and our people and aircraft have performed superbly," he said. "We are making important contributions to the coalition team working to disarm and liberate Iraq."

As every other coalition aircraft has done so far, the stealth fighters that flew these missions returned home safely.

The aircraft and pilots are not the only stars of the mission. The new EGBU-27s are also playing an important part.

The "E" stands for "enhanced," reflecting recent upgrades to the traditional GBU-27. The EGBU-27 now has a satellite-guidance system to supplement the laser guidance system.

When poor weather or other obstruc-

see BOMBS on Page 3



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

Paving the way

Kenny Slater, construction foreman, prepares the lot near Holloman's Primary and Intermediate Schools for paving. The Committee of Fifty partnered with base leadership have made this renovation possible from the generous donations from local merchants to help faculty, students and parents at the schools.

49 MXS civilian captures Air Force award

by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

After 20 years of civil service, five in the 49th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Section, a Team Holloman member is the best in the Air Force.

Kathryn Steinbacher, stock control supervisor, was awarded the Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Outstanding Munitions Person

of the Year award for her diligence and quality assurance.

"I'm very impressed that the people I work with have such great confidence in the job I do," Steinbacher said. "I was surprised I stood out because I just do my job. I show up for work everyday, assist airmen in their training and provide continuity that is needed during deployments or exercises."

Steinbacher has many top notch accomplishments to make her stand out against the rest, said Senior Master Sgt. James Billot, 49th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight superintendent.

"I think her focus on the customer is what's most impressive," said Billot. "She has continually received praise

see AWARDS on Page 2



High: 60
Low: 40

TODAY



High: 66
Low: 30

SATURDAY



High: 75
Low: 34

SUNDAY



High: 80
Low: 40

MONDAY

Weather forecast provided by the 49th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

Holloman's medical clinic is on the move

by Staff Sgt. Aaron Cram
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Team Holloman people seeking medical care on base will soon be treated at a new and improved clinic.

Phase I of the four-phase \$5.7 million construction project to help Holloman's clinic evolve with trends in modern medicine will be complete next month.

"Modern medicine has moved away from inpatient centered care and is now focused more on prevention and outpatient care," said Lt. Col. Michael Mann, 49th Medical Operations Squadron commander. "The 49th Medical Group Clinic was originally an inpatient facility. Its outpatient capability is very outdated and inefficient.

"This construction project was designed to enhance the quality and capacity of medical care through quantum improvements in communication and information management, better utilization of space and consolidation of most medical group services," he said.

As part of the renovation, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Women's Health, Pediatrics and Flight Medicine will move into nearly 45,000 square feet of remodeled space.

In this area, each patient interaction room will be larger than those presently used in the clinic, and include a computerized workstation for healthcare providers to handle almost every aspect of primary care while in the room before treating their next patient.

Every area will have a fully equipped

treatment room for minor procedures.

Preventative Health Assessments will also move to the new area. This will markedly improve the convenience of the PHA process for every active duty member, Mann said.

Another major improvement is an enhanced centralized appointment system.

Improved telephone and computer systems will help schedule appointments and distinctly decrease telephone wait times especially during peak scheduling hours, Mann said.

Providers will also share an office with their respective nurse.

"Outpatient nurses are now considered an extension of the provider," Mann said. "Both must work closely as a team to manage the high volume of patients seen every day."

While there are many improvements planned, people may experience minor inconveniences such as limited entrances into the clinic and the temporary relocation of the pharmacy during construction.

Clinic officials hope to limit the impact on patient care by phasing the moves and performing much of the work after normal duty hours and over weekends.

One Family Practice team will continue to see patients needing acute care for the limited moves happening during normal duty hours.

After Phase I is complete, patient entrances to the clinic will temporarily be limited to the south side of the building.

AWARD from Page 1

from test managers and other custodians for her outstanding support. She's known to go the extra mile to help out."

Along with exceptional customer service, Steinbacher provided the continuity of support for all the unique organizations on this base, such as the fighter squadrons, German air force, 46th Test Group/Test Track, Dyncorp and the 4th Space Control Squadron.

The munitions operations technicians are accountable for all munitions in the wing.

They maintain and track all explosive items. They order and issue everything from the smallest bullet for training or self-protection to the largest bomb. They also supply many life support and egress products, such as initiators for ejection seats, parachutes and seat kits.

Also, Steinbacher's contributions were a key to the munitions flight's successful 100 percent compliance rating during Air Combat Command's 2002 Unit Compliance Inspection.

Steinbacher also excelled while working with forecasts and allocations for not only the fighter wing but also 37 other custodian accounts. She was in charge of tracking and ordering all of the munitions for these accounts.

"Awards are important for the fact that even the lowest ranking airman can see that their work is appreciated and thus encourage them to set goals throughout their career," Steinbacher said. "I just try to do the job to the best of my ability, maintain a good outlook on life and support my fellow workers. It's definitely a recipe for success."

MDG officer wins command-level award

by Airman 1st Class Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A Holloman officer has been doing big things at the 49th Medical Support Squadron and throughout Air Combat Command, which recently recognized him with two command-level awards.

Capt. Matt Krauchunas, the Medical Logistics Flight commander, won the command's 2002 Young Healthcare Administrator of the Year and the 2002 Outstanding Medical Logistics Officer of the Year awards.

"Winning one command-level award is outstanding, and winning two is extraordinary," said Lt. Col. Kathleen Dunn-Cane, 49th MDSS. "Matt epitomizes the very best qualities we look for in Medical Service Corps officers."

Krauchunas said it's an honor to be named an ACC award winner.

"It's a tribute to the dedication and hard work of the people in my flight," he said. "Teamwork is the foundation. It's not possible to accomplish everything alone; it takes great people working together to accomplish great things."

The flight ensures Holloman's clinics have the supplies, equipment and facilities necessary to keep people healthy. The section also ensures the medical war reserve material is ready so medical workers can provide initial medical care in deployed locations.

To help his flight provide supplies, Krauchunas designed an innovative process for Air Force WRM backpack projects and developed a binder and compact disc with digital pictures for all items, which cut inventory by 50 percent and ensured 100 percent proper items are received at deployed locations.

He also led a web-based non-medical supply initiative that reduced warehouse inventory by 95 percent



Photo by Airman 1st Class Martha Whipple

Capt. Matt Krauchunas explains details of the Medical Group construction to Carlos Lopez, facility manager.

and increased customer selections by 200 percent.

Krauchunas also ordered and received more than \$25,000 in supplies and pharmaceuticals in three weeks for a team that led a Guatemalan medical humanitarian mission. The team provided medical care

for hundreds of Guatemalan natives.

"Matt's accomplishments in one year supersedes a career of accomplishments for some people," Dunn-Cane said. "His leadership abilities are top-notch and his work ethic is turbocharged."

Fighting fatigue behind the wheel

by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A long commute with nothing in sight but an unchanging mountainous horizon and occasional tumbleweed is the perfect recipe for highway hypnosis. Being entranced by the drive can become even more dangerous when drivers are tired, and a long commute becomes a fight to stay awake.

"If someone is fighting to stay awake, they're fighting a losing battle," said Master Sgt. Mark Sprayberry, 49th Fighter Wing Safety ground safety NCOIC. "Our bodies are wonderful machines, but when we're tired, we need to sleep and our body will sleep whether we want it to or not."

Sleep deprivation causes the impairment of memory, judgment, mood, decision-making, and increases reaction time, which is a dangerous mix behind the wheel.

"Even short lapses in paying attention to what's going on while driving can be deadly," Sprayberry said. "Just momentarily closing your eyes, sometimes called micro sleeps, can have disastrous conse-

"If someone is fighting to stay awake, they're fighting a losing battle."

-- Master Sgt. Mark Sprayberry
49th Fighter Wing ground safety NCOIC

quences. A good illustration of this is the fact that every second you drive at 60 miles per hour, you travel about 90 feet. Just one second with your eyes closed can put you in a situation you haven't planned for."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, researchers have shown that the dangers posed by fatigue are similar to those posed by drunk driving.

The functioning of a person awake for 18 hours is as impaired as someone with a blood alcohol content of 0.05. This increases to a BAC of 0.10 if a person is awake for 24 hours.

To keep drivers from harming others and themselves they should be aware of fatigue

warning signs such as:

- Failure to remember the last few miles driven
- Wandering or disconnected thoughts
- Difficulty focusing, keeping eyes open, keeping head up
- Drifting from lane, tailgating or missing signs

Contrary to popular belief, blasting a radio, opening a window and similar "tricks" to stay awake do not work according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Before fatigue closes in there are many tips people can try that will help them fight back their tiredness.

- Plan Ahead, get plenty of rest before traveling
- Take breaks every two hours
- Bring a pillow or a blanket
- Bring something to snack on and some water to drink

"If in doubt, pull over in a well-lit area and take a 20 to 40 minute nap," said Sprayberry. "You are in control of one to two tons of automobile that can cause a lot of damage. Be a responsible driver; fight fatigue."

BOMBS from Page 1

tions prevent the bomb from "seeing" the laser spot on a target, the new "smarter bomb" automatically switches to the new satellite-guidance system.

This allows the bomb to reach its target using coordinates programmed by the pilot or the last known point provided by the laser, said Jim Ogan, the bomb's program manager at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

The enhanced bomb gives this deep-strike fighter the ability to precisely hit a target in all kinds of weather and the upgrade came just in time, according to officials.

The Air Force defined a need for a satellite-guided capability for the stealth fighter after Operation Allied Force and the Air Force acquisition community rapidly developed, tested and fielded the EGBU-27, added officials.

The Air Force used the new bomb operationally for the first time March 20 against strategic targets in Baghdad on the first night of the war, said Hinote.

"Our new weapon helps us contribute to the overall objectives of the campaign by precisely targeting the Iraqi leadership without hurting the innocent citizens of Iraq," he said. (AFPN)

Survey will help servicemembers, families

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

A survey designed to gauge the Air Force's success in building communities is set for distribution in early April.

The 2003 Community Assessment Survey will be sent out servicewide, said the Air Force's director of family advocacy research and the project officer for the survey. He added that the Air Force will use the survey results to learn how to help its people better.

"We want to find out what people really need and what would help them make their communities and their lives in the Air Force better," said Maj. Jim Whitworth, the Air Force's director of family advocacy research. "The assessment goes out to active-duty members and to their spouses as well as some Reserve members and spouses."

Variations of the assessment have been conducted once every 24 to 30 months since 1993. This year, the total number of people who will be asked to take the assessment is around 1,800 at each of 85 Air Force installations worldwide.

Those taking the survey will be randomly chosen, and the survey is completely anonymous.

Questions on the survey, Whitworth said, cover basic needs by asking about "key areas necessary for building strong communities."

"These areas include a person's sense of community, family adaptation, safety, spiritual well-being, health and well-being, economic well-being and preparedness," he said.

Questions on the assessment ask about the availability of community resources and about how connected, or a part of the community, people feel they are.

For example, one question asks if people feel there are enough places on their installation to spend time with co-workers after duty hours. Another asks about relationships with supervisors.

Assessment results, Whitworth said, will not fall on deaf ears. In fact, bases have used past results to make changes in the services they provide on base and even in the services and options available to people off base.

"There was one (installation) where

they identified that spouse employment was a real problem," Whitworth said. "The spouses had indicated on the community assessment that there were just no jobs, and so the base leadership was able to target that issue. The installation was able to get some businesses to relocate to (its) installation and as a result there was a 15 percent increase in spouse employment from one assessment to the next."

Whitworth said the key to the success of the assessments is that Air Force leaders will be better able to help their people help themselves.

"We've found the most powerful way to help people is to help their informal networks — to help people to establish more and better friendships, to help them to get to know their neighbors and get involved in their community," Whitworth said.

For example, he said, an Air Force community in Germany used the survey to help alleviate the isolation of younger, enlisted families who lived in apartment-style homes.

"What the team did was to set up picnics and other activities in the stairways

and in the hallways of those apartment buildings," he said. "That solution helped create more friendships among the people who lived there."

Active-duty people will be notified by e-mail, while spouses will be notified by postal mail. Airmen can complete the assessment on a designated Web site, while spouses have the option of completing it on paper.

The effectiveness of the assessment depends totally on participants' willingness to accurately complete it, Whitworth said. It is designed to take less than 20 minutes to complete.

"Our goal is to make improvements in building stronger communities without guessing, so we need to know people's thoughts and needs," he said. "If people don't tell us what they need or identify areas where we can improve or what the problems are, it will be much harder to reach our goal."

"We urge all active duty and family members who receive these assessments to take the time to complete the assessment and to help us strengthen our Air Force communities," he said. "This assessment is their chance to do that."

ADVERTISEMENTS

Holloman Hotline

572-7500



Col. James Hunt

The Hotline is your direct link to the 49th Fighter Wing commander. If you've tried to solve the problem yourself and haven't been able to get results, call 572-7500 or e-mail cc.hotline@holloman.af.mil.

Leave your name and phone number so the office of primary concern can contact you. Before submitting a Hotline, please give the appropriate agencies a chance to work out the problem. If you want to pass on praise for a job well done, please contact the supervisor or commander directly who can provide the appropriate recognition to the individual or group. The unit commanders and agency chiefs want to help. Let them try first.

Child care hours

Q:

First, let me say that since transferring here I have been extremely impressed with the Youth Center. The after school programs are excellent and the staff are dedicated, energetic and very devoted in their care of the children. It's without a doubt a superior operation and should be commended.

With that said, I have one thing I'd like to see changed - the hours. Would it be possible to extend the opening and closing times by 30 minutes, especially the closing time? Currently, the hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Could the hours possibly be changed, if only on a trial basis, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.? An extra 30 minutes could help parents who sometimes have to go to work early or stay late.

A:

I agree, the School-Age Program at the Youth and Teen Center is a superior operation!

Hours of operation are currently based on two factors: the annual Parent Survey, done in March 2002, and minimizing cost for care and still meeting the command's mandated financial break-even goal.

The parent survey indicated the majority of families in the program required extended hours sporadically or in the event of base wide exercises.

The School Age Program does extend hours during base wide exercises from 5:30 a.m. until the last child is picked up the first day of the exercise and from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the duration of the exercise.

Extending hours of care by an hour per day -- half an hour in the morning and half an hour in the afternoon -- will drive up cost of care for all users and could eliminate some of the things we are able to do for families now, like not charging for additional hours during exercises.

To meet the occasional need for additional hours before or after our normal hours of operation the Air Force is currently offering the Extended Duty Care Program through our Family Child Care Office with three licensed homes at Holloman. This service is currently free! Once you've registered with the FCC office, you will be able to coordinate childcare even with short notice extensions to your duty day. If you have any more questions please contact Therese Wiley, FCC coordinator, at 572-5848.

ADVERTISEMENTS



The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents from March 18 to 24.

Tickets

Security Forces issued a total of 23 citations this week: One for trespassing, one for shoplifting, one for careless driving, one for careless driving and no insurance, one for no license, one for no registration, one for failure to stop and no insurance, one for improper turning, one for no seatbelt, one for speeding 5-10 mph over the posted speed limit, one for speeding 5-10 mph over the posted speed limit and no insurance, one for speeding 10-15 mph over the posted speed limit and no insurance, two for speeding 11-15 mph over the posted speed limit, two for theft, and seven for failure to stop.

Theft or damage to government and private property

- March 18: A retired officer was issued a ticket for careless driving after he struck a parked private-owned vehicle. The retiree was talking on his cell phone at

the time of the incident.

- March 18: An airman driving a POV struck another POV when he hit the gas instead of the brake. Minor damage was caused to both vehicles.

- March 18: An airman reported the passenger side mirror cover of her POV damaged. She stated the damage occurred while she was at the gym.

- March 18: An airman reported her car damaged after an unknown individual hit her parked POV.

- March 21: A retiree struck the main gate with his POV while entering the installation. Minor damage occurred to the vehicle.

- March 22: An airman was charged with Larceny and Attempting to Flee Security under Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for stealing compact discs and a Play Station game.

- March 24: An airman was issued a citation for inattentive backing after she backed her POV into another POV. Minor damage occurred to both vehicles.

- March 24: An NCO reported minor damage to his POV, which appears to have been caused by another POV.

- March 24: A senior NCO reported damage to the first and third floor dayrooms of dorm 340.

- March 24: A civilian family member driving a POV was issued three citations after she failed to yield to another POV causing an accident. No injuries occurred to either driver.

Assault

- March 21: Two airmen were advised of their rights under Article 128 Assault of the UCMJ for a confrontation which occurred between them.

- March 24: An airman was advised of his rights under

the UCMJ for insubordinate conduct toward an NCO and provoking speeches and gestures. He was released to his first sergeant.

Patrol Response

March 23: An airman was apprehended for child neglect after leaving her 2-year-old daughter home alone.

Missing ID cards, vehicle decals and restricted area badges

There were five reports of missing identification cards this week. Four were active duty IDs and one was a family member ID. These incidents can become breaches of security. If personnel have a military issued ID card stolen or lost, or a DD Form 2220 stolen from a vehicle or missing from the squadron's inventory, report it to security forces immediately.

Security forces can be alerted to look for the missing item, given the information and serial numbers placed on each accountable item.

If you know of or have any information concerning any of these incidents, please contact security forces at 572-7171 or your first sergeant. For the Crime Stop Help Line, please contact security forces at 572-1100 or dial "911".

Abandoned vehicle numbers are on the rise. Members PCSing or separating from the military cannot abandon their vehicle. If a vehicle is impounded it costs \$50 to tow it and \$5 a day for a storage fee. Force Protection Condition measures require vehicles be moved on a routine basis and if personnel leave their vehicles behind, Security Forces can track them down at another base or state and hold them responsible for it.

ADVERTISEMENTS

DWI Update

Days since last DWI	26	<u>Last six DWIs:</u>	<u>572-RIDE works!</u>
DWIs year to date	12	• 49 LRS March 2	<i>Calls MADE are lives SAVED.</i>
DWIs this time last year	10	• 49 MMS March 1	Calls:
		• 49 CES Jan. 17	Year to date: 182
		• 49 OSS Jan. 11	Last week: 10
		• 49 LRS Jan. 4	
		• GAF Nov. 22	

(The DWI update and 572-RIDE reflect FY 2003. The * denotes the DWI is a family member or civilian employee.)

Holloman Chapel Services

Weekday Masses – 11:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
Sunday – Catholic Mass, 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.
• Protestant Religious Education, 9:30 a.m.
• General Protestant Worship Service, 11 a.m.
• Catholic Religious Education, 11 a.m.
• Sacrament of Penance, 4 p.m.
• Protestant Contemporary Worship Service, 6:30 p.m.
Call 572-7214 for more information.

49th Fighter Wing
Commander’s Access Channel

The commander’s access channel, cable channel 3, offers up-to-date information about current security conditions, closures on base, hours of various programs on base and community information about what programs and events are available at Holloman and in the local area. The commander’s access channel also features the following videos today through Thursday:

- Air Force Television News: 6 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Air Combat Command Access: 7 a.m., noon, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.



Holloman AFB Editorial Staff

Col. Jim Hunt..... **Commander, 49th Fighter Wing**
Maj. Tina Barber-Matthew **Director, Public Affairs**
1st Lt. Yvonne Lukson **Deputy Director, Public Affairs**
2nd Lt. Nora Eyle **Chief, Internal Information**
Staff Sgt. Aaron Cram **Editor**
Airman 1st Class Martha Whipple..... **Staff Writer**
Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy..... **Staff Writer**
Lorna Schuster..... **Staff Writer**

The SUNBURST is published by Aerotech News & Review, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the United States military services. Contents of the SUNBURST are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force or Aerotech News & Review, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliations or any other nonmerit fact of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Holloman Public Affairs Office. All photos used are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. For editorial information call (505) 572-3515.

Articles must be typed and double-spaced. Stories should be submitted directly to the Public Affairs Office via e-mail to 49fw.pa.sunburst@holloman.af.mil or mailed to **49 FW/PA, 490 First Street, Suite 2800, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., 88330-8287**. All material is edited for accuracy, brevity, clarity, and conformity to regulations. The delivery of the SUNBURST to Holloman on-base family housing sections is provided by Aerotech News and Review. The deadline for submitting articles to the SUNBURST is 4 p.m. Thursday the week before publication. For advertising information, call (505) 479-6550.

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

MDG defeats FW/MSS in Over 30 championship

by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 49th Medical Group beat the 49th Mission Support Squadron 65-63 for the Over 30 basketball championship title Tuesday at the Fitness and Sports Center.

Intensity was prominent throughout the match up, both teams keeping the score close enough that either team could have taken the title.

"The game was everything we expected," said 49th MDG coach Tony Wilson. "MSS deserves a lot of credit. They raised the level of intensity, which can only be expected in a championship game."

"We had a positive attitude going into the game," said Master Sgt. Calvin Perry. "We knew that we had a tough task against our opponent and had to play smart for 40 minutes."

Both teams played very smart and put up big numbers to finish off the first half with an even score.

"Our intensity remained high throughout the entire game and that allowed us to play well and keep the score close," said Clark. "We knew MDG could put up big numbers in a hurry, so we worked hard not to let that happen."

MDG felt the pressure and trailed almost 10 pts in the

second half, but according to Wilson they took the game one possession at a time to work their way back into the game.

"After we came back from the 9-0 lead, it was back and forth from that point," Wilson said.

The game was tied when Tommy Labarron hit a three, L.J. McDougle followed with a lay up and Marcus Hunter hit a short jumper within a two minute period on consecutive trips that opened up an eight point lead with about eight minutes left in the game. MSS had to fight an uphill battle that proved to be too much.

"Despite being behind, we kept our eye on the prize," said Clark. "We stayed focused on winning the championship even when it seemed that things were against us."

Consecutive free throws made by Wilson, who was the leading scorer for the season, kept MDG in front in the end and they took the title over FW/MSS with a two-point lead.

"We did not give up," Wilson said. "It was a close game and we kept ourselves in position to win. Everybody understood their role and did their jobs. We had scorers and defensive specialists. Once the defense got the ball, they put it in the right hands at the right times. It's a harmony that kept us strong this season."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

MDG forward L.J. McDougle takes a shot over FW/MSS forward Javier Rodriguez during the Over 30 basketball championship Tuesday. MDG battled out a 63-65 win over FW/MSS.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Holloman Hero

Senior Airman Bryan Burgos

49th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Duty title: Circuit card repair technician

Time in service: Two years and seven months

Time at Holloman: One year and ten months

Hometown: Dorado, Puerto Rico

Personal and career goals:

My personal goals are to obtain a bachelor's degree in Electronics and retire as a chief master sergeant.

What accomplishment during your Air Force career are you most proud of?

One accomplishment during my Air Force career has been applying my electronics knowledge and experience from the civilian world to my job as an avionics sensor troop and now as a technician in Gold Flag. I help my fellow technicians understand the in-depth electronics concepts beyond the scope of technical school. I pass on my knowledge and experiences to save time, resources and money. If every airman found a way to improve what he or she does, we will ensure the success of our mission and always be the best Air Force in the world.

Why is serving in the Air Force important to you?

The main reason I'm proud to serve is because I'm

ensuring the freedom we enjoy now, and I will secure the same freedom for my family. I feel what I do is part of the whole effort to defend what we believe. Every time we comply with the mission of freedom, I feel like I did my part. I enjoy the fact that we have the freedom to go anywhere, freedom to believe, freedom to speak and freedom to serve our great country. I'm proud to serve in the greatest Air Force in the world.

Core value portrayed: "Excellence in all we do"

The core value that best describes Burgos is "Excellence in all we do". His in-depth electronics knowledge and willingness to accept nothing but the best ensures every agency utilizing Gold Flag walks away feeling confident their item has been repaired. His commitment to excellence results in the return of the item to service, which saves the Air Force hundreds of thousands of dollars in replacement cost. I'm proud to have Burgos as part of the maintenance operations team.

– Lt. Col. Masao Hendrix

49th Maintenance Operations Squadron commander



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

The Holloman Hero submission form is now online. It can be downloaded at: https://wwwmil.holloman.af.mil/wing/49FW_PA/internal.html

ADVERTISEMENTS

see doubletruck file

see doubletruck file

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

Holloman operators make the connection



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

Darlene Gamble, Holloman operator, uses her Braille reader to locate phone numbers for Team Holloman.

by Lorna Schuster
Sunburst Staff Writer

The daily challenge of keeping Team Holloman running rests with airmen and civilian personnel alike.

It's unusual to have to meet this challenge without eyesight. However, for 60 percent of operators with the 49th Communications Squadron telephone operations services, making telephone connections blind or with a visual impairment has been an every day occurrence for almost six years.

Holloman has maintained a contract with New Mexico Industries for the Blind for the 49th CS telephone operations services since April of 1997. The 49th CS was the first in the Air Force to contract with the visually impaired for these services.

"All our operators have worked hard to keep the pace," said Carol Watson, 49th CS quality assurance monitor. "Recently, though, we've had a flood of morale calls coming through the switchboard as the number of people deployed has increased."

To coordinate the growing number of morale calls as well as provide base directory assistance and Defense Switched Network long distance connections, the visually impaired operators use assistive technology.

"The technology really makes the job easier," said Darlene Gamble, a switchboard operator who is totally blind. "In the past, we relied on a manual Braille writer to gather and relay information, but now we have a specially designed keyboard."

The device Gamble now uses to receive information is called the Alva Braille reader. The reader is attached to the keyboard and phone lines and sends a message to her as soon as the phone rings. The message pops up as Braille "hot keys" on the reader at the base of the keyboard to indicate where the call is coming from.

Another example of assistive technology is the Visually Impaired Telephone Operating System database. VITOS contains all the information the operators need to direct calls to the proper place.

To connect a morale call, the operators tap into the VITOS database on the Alva Braille reader and dial into the system. Through headphones, the operator is fed both the incoming caller's voice and a computer-synthesized voice that relays the VITOS information to operators who don't read Braille.

"It's great having Braille and voice technology," Gamble said. "We had to get used to all these devices, but during training we had the advantage of our memory."

According to Judy Sampson, telephone operations supervisor, many of the visually impaired operators continue past their training period to display impressive memory skills by recalling volumes of numbers without assistance from the database.

"The operators, both blind and sighted, are doing an outstanding job," Sampson said. "Even under the current stress to get calls through to loved ones, they are consistently friendly and patient with customers and they get the calls through. We couldn't ask for much more."

Housing management weeds out yard violations

by Lorna Schuster
Sunburst staff writer

Spring has arrived and with it the seasonal battle for clean-cut lawns and tidy flowerbeds. Just as an airman must maintain a polished personal appearance, families in base housing must follow the guidelines to keep the grounds surrounding their home in top shape.

Housing Management Office officials know the ground rules — and what sort of yard appearances just aren't acceptable.

"It takes me about three months to get to all of the 1,440 units on base," said Melanie Peedin, grounds inspector. "The difference between inspections now and previous inspections is that they are done on foot instead of by car. This means we're getting a more accurate assessment of what needs work because we're seeing the back and front yards up close."

Upon closer inspection, Peedin has found certain problems crop up again and again.

One problem is weed control. In some yards, weeds and excess grass have been found over running flowerbeds, cracks in the sidewalks and driveways and other landscaped areas separated from lawns by edging. Occupants are expected to keep these areas free of excess

grass and weeds by pulling them up or using weed control products.

"The mustard weed, which appears to be a big problem in areas, has so many little seeds in the bloom that when it's mowed the seed spreads all over, creating more weeds," Peedin said. "Weeds should be pulled, not mowed."

When re-establishing grass, occupants can water everyday within the watering timeframe. However, after the first cut of new grass, occupants are expected to return to the normal watering schedule.

Xeroscaping, desert landscaping with decorative rock and edging, is an alternative to lawns in front yards.

Occupants are also responsible for trimming trees and bushes with low branches. However, branches have been found thrown behind privacy fences that are bordered by alleys. Fallen or cut branches should be cut into small pieces and placed at the curb on the appropriate pick up day.

"The contractor who worked with us picked up all fallen branches in those back alleys as a courtesy last year, but it was not their responsibility," said Karen Felix, Housing project manager. "Picking these branches up is another part of keeping your area clean."

Compost piles, a fire hazard and sanitation problem, should not be kept in individual yards, Peedin said. Yard

waste and pet feces should be bagged and put out with tree branches for yard refuse pick up.

Weeds and branches, however, aren't the only things cluttering the grounds around housing. Trash containers have been left out on sidewalks all week making it inconvenient for people going for walks.

"Here especially, the wind kicks up and stray pieces of trash blow out from the bins," Felix said. "It becomes an eyesore. Pushing the container out to the curb the night before is okay, it just shouldn't be left there all week."

For all the violations found, Peedin initially responds with a courtesy warning, a hand written note reminding the occupant of their maintenance responsibilities. After people receive a courtesy warning, they have a week to clean up the problem.

"If people are deployed or on leave," Peedin said, "they need to find a responsible party to take care of their home and yard. We understand the situation, but if people just ignore the problems in their yard, they will be written up. With three discrepancies, an occupant is subject to review for eviction from the base."

To find out more about guidelines for yard maintenance, check the Family Housing pamphlet. Pamphlets are available at the Housing office, building 71.

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENTS

Estate Claims

People with claims against or indebtedness to the estate of Airman Jill Journey should call Capt. Jeff McClure at 572-3418.

Z-Trans Route Change

Starting Monday the Z-Trans Stealth Route will run 14 times per day, Mondays through Fridays, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. This route serves Wal-Mart to Holloman. The Space Route will now run only five times per day, Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. For more information and new bus schedules call 439-4971.

Mach 10k Run/5k Walk

The Holloman High Speed Test Track Mach 10k Run/5k walk is at 8 a.m., April 12 at the South end of the Test Track Rail. The event open to all military ID holders. Register by Monday for early registration fee of \$15. Late and race-day fee is \$20.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Kendall Okeson.

Red Cross

- The Red Cross needs volunteers to deliver roses Wednesday. Call Evelyn Martinez at 572-7066 to volunteer.

- The Red Cross also welcomes volunteers to donate their time across base at the library, clinic, schools and other places. Contact the Red Cross for more information and volunteer opportunities at 572-7066 or visit the website at www.holloman.af.mil/arc/index.htm.

- Free blood pressure readings are available 9 a.m. to noon, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the American Red Cross Service Center at 700 First Street, Room 765, in Alamogordo.

Parent and child aerobics

Parents and children can attend aerobic classes together at 6:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays at the Fitness and Sports Center. Cost is \$25 for an adult pass and allows one child over 8 years old to attend with the parent. For more information or to sign up call 572-3256 or visit the front desk at the gym.

Self-Confidence Course

Self-Confidence Course for families will be held 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, 15 and 22 at the Chapel Annex. Participants should wear loose, comfortable clothing and shoes. For more information and to sign-up call 572-7211 or 572-7754.

B On the
IG SCREEN
How to Lose a Guy in 10 days

7 and 10 p.m., today and Saturday

Dark Blue

7 p.m., Sunday and Thursday

Movies are subject to change.

For more information, call 572-3286.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

Smooth

Airman 1st Class Donte Bishop, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron structures shop, smooths out concrete on a new sidewalk being installed near First Street as part of a landscaping project in the area.

Self-Help flowers

The Self-Help Center received a shipment of 1,000 rose bushes. The roses bushes are available on a first come basis for base housing residents, two rose bushes per house.

Today, the self-help center received two more varieties of flowers: pansies and dianthus. One six-pack of each will be issued to each residence. For more information call 572-2154.

Treats for Troops

Thanks to New Mexico residents, the Holloman Public Affairs office has a generous amount of Girl Scout cookies to be sent to deployed Team Holloman members.

Anyone interested in sending cookies to a deployed family member or friend, visit the PA office, located at building 29, Suite 2800.

No Trespassing

Trespassing on the base firing range is not only illegal, but also dangerous because of gunfire. The base firing range is located on Vandergrift Street, about two miles from the La Luz gate.

There are danger signs posted in English and Spanish around the entire perimeter of the range impact area.

If there is a valid need for entry call

the 49th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms section at 679-1808.

Thunderbird Openings

There are 28 different Air Force Specialty codes on the Thunderbird team. For more information about the Thunderbird team, contact Staff Sgt. Melissa Miller at 702-652-2278 or DSN 682-2278, or email, melissab.miller@nellis.af.mil.

Referees needed

The Youth and Teen Center needs volunteer referees and coaches for youth basketball. Games are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays. For more information, call Cheryl at 572-3698.

Cosmic bowling

The Desert Lanes Bowling Center offers Cosmic Bowling 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., Fridays and 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturdays. Cost is \$7 for up to four games and shoe rentals are 75 cents. Open bowling is 1 to 3 a.m., Fridays and Saturdays for \$1.75 per game.

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation offers a Grand Canyon trip April 4 to 6. Cost is \$120 per person and includes transportation, camping equipment, meals and park fees. Sign up by today.

For more information or to vote on upcoming events log onto www.hollomanservices.com or call 572-1051.

Varsity Softball

The men's base varsity softball team is holding tryouts at 5 p.m., Fridays at the softball fields. For more information call Staff Sgt. Thomas Labarron at 572-2529.

HESO

The Holloman Enlisted Spouses' Organization invites all spouses of active duty, retired or German air force enlisted personnel to attend their monthly meeting 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., April 8 at the Whispering Sands Community Center. Childcare is provided at no charge and "potluck" style refreshments will be served.

PWOC

The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet 6:30 p.m., Thursday at the Chapel Annex for a night of fun and fellowship. This month's activity includes Cynthia Phillips' "Entertaining" tips and ideas. The guest speaker, is I.M. Crisosto Pena, a descendent of Geronimo. For more information, call Angi Scaglione at 479-9457.